

JUSTICES URGED TO EVICT RENT STRIKER

Mayor's Committee Takes
Stand Against Such Action
in Brownsville.

AGITATORS ARE WARNED Concerted Move by 25,000 Tenants to Repudiate Rents Is Announced.

Members of the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering made known yesterday that their body will not countenance any rent strikes such as are threatened by agitators in Brownsville and other sections, and that they will ask the Municipal Court justices to evict all tenants taking part in such movements.

Referring to statements issued by an organization calling itself the Workmen's Consumers' League of Brownsville and East New York, which is endeavoring to get 25,000 tenants to stop paying rents, Arthur J. Hill, chairman of the Mayor's committee, said last night: "There is no excuse for a movement of this kind, as the courts are now quite able to protect the interests of the tenants and are doing so."

L. Kenneth Mayer and Julius Appelbaum, both of counsel to the committee, said those tenants who choose to go on strike will gain less than those who take proper legal measures to protect themselves from excessive rent increases.

"I am quite sure that justices of the Municipal Court will countenance no mass action," Mr. Appelbaum said. "I personally will urge the courts to issue warrants of eviction forthwith against any persons who elect to join in a rent strike and who are not willing to abide by the laws."

The plans for the Brownsville strike were announced yesterday morning fol-

lowing a tempestuous meeting that had lasted nearly all night. Leo Gittin, organizer of the movement, claims to have enrolled 15,000 tenants. He boasts he will have 25,000 by May 1, when they are to go on strike for everything under the sun and a little more. Aaron Revner is president of the strike organization, and Emanuel Mehl of 324 Fulton street, Brooklyn, is its counsel.

Landlords Surprised.
The action is surprising to landlords of the neighborhood, who are of the unanimous opinion that they themselves are the sufferers since the new rent laws went into effect. In the Municipal Court in Brownsville many tenants have obtained stays of one year and several hundred have been granted reduction of rent. They have been nearly 100 per cent. victorious in all court proceedings since the new laws went into effect.

A defence of the Burlington bill for exempting certain classes of apartments from the new laws was issued yesterday by Alexander C. MacNulty, special counsel for the Real Estate Board of New York, which claims to have fathered the measure.

"As they stand the new rent laws discourage rather than encourage the construction of new tenement houses," Mr. MacNulty said. "The relief they are now affording tenants who have roofs over their heads will only be an aggravation to the thousands of persons who will be homeless next October."

The Burlington bill, he said, would exempt apartments constructed or substantially reconstructed since April 1, 1919, in exempting from the new laws any house being sold under a tenant's cooperative plan, it would merely follow the attitude now taken by our Municipal Court justices. That clause of the bill which provides that a landlord may give four months notice of increases of rent prior to the expiration of a lease, and that failure of the tenant to accept shall be construed as a termination of the tenancy, he said, is merely designed to provide both parties with advance knowledge as to whether the lease is to be extended or not.

Clause Most Attacked.
This is the clause that has been most criticized by enemies of the bill. Mr. MacNulty also attacked the pro-

posed bills for placing restrictions on store and loft rents.

Representatives of trade associations interested in the passage of the latter bills will go to Albany on Tuesday to urge their enactment at public hearing. Harry Uviller of the American Clock and Suit Manufacturers Association will head the delegation. Mr. Uviller is chairman of the Merchants Rent Committee.

A delegation from this committee called upon President La Guardia of the Board of Aldermen yesterday and obtained his promise that a resolution supporting the bills will be introduced before the board here on Tuesday.

Walter C. Martin, superintendent of the Bronx Tenement House Department, said yesterday that from 1,500 to 2,000 families will live in tents in Pelham Bay Park this summer, and that he expects the plan to be followed on a large scale in other boroughs.

HYLAN ASKS INQUIRY INTO FARE BILL VOTE

Suggests Chairman Deceived
Absentee Assemblymen.

Mayor Hylan sent a letter yesterday to members of the Assembly asking them to institute an investigation to determine whether the vote of the Judiciary Committee last Friday upon the fare increase bills was not obtained through Chairman Louis Martin having deceived two members of the committee. Those members are Assemblyman Theodore E. Stitt, Republican, Kings county, and Assemblyman William S. Evans, Democrat, The Bronx, who, according to the Mayor's letter, stated that information from the chairman caused them to be absent from the committee meeting at which the bills were approved. The vote was 6 to 5.

Mayor Hylan contends that if the absent Assemblymen had been present, their votes would have made the result 7 to 6 against the bills and they would have died in committee.

He asks the Assembly to call the two Assemblymen and Chairman Martin before it and determine whether the absent members were deceived. Should

the Assembly find they were deceived, the Mayor demands that the full Judiciary Committee be directed to reconsider and reconsider its action upon the bills. Mayor Hylan has written to Mayors of other principal cities in the State urging them to support his request of the Assembly.

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